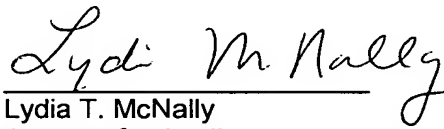


REMARKS

The claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action October 15, 2003. Specifically claim 94 has been amended to recite that the epothilone is selected from epothilone A or epothilone B. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 21, lines 15-16. Further claim 94 has been amended to add: "the complement of the epoF nucleotide fragment hybridizes to nucleotides 62369-63628 of SEQ ID NO:1". Support for this amendment can be found on page 40 in Table 1. This language allows for transforming the host cell with the gene epoF which encodes epothilones macrolactone oxidase. Based on the Examiner's statement in the Office Action that: "claims directed to a method of obtaining epothilones A and epothilones B using a transformed cell with the entire gene cluster including epoA, epoP, epoB, epoC, epoD, epoE and epoF genes would be considered favorably," applicants believe the claims are in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis  
Corporate Intellectual Property  
One Health Plaza, Building 430  
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080  
(862) 778-7898

  
Lydia T. McNally  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 36,214

Date: February 17, 2004